

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

OES-03 IO-10 CU-02 OFA-01 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 NSF-01

EPA-01 /087 W

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P 200833Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1818

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

OAC CAMP BULTER

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AB KADENA

MARCORB CAMP FOSTER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFO CAMP BULTER

USPAV KADENA AB

CINCPAC FOR POLD

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, SCUL, JA

SUBJECT: OKINAWA AND OUR MILITARY PRESENCE A MONTH AFTER
THE OPENING OF EXPO

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SUMMARY: THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION OKINAWA (EXPO) IS
DRAWING THE EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, ALMOST COMPLETELY SO FAR MAIN
ISLAND TOUR GROUPS. THE U.S. PAVILION IS POPULAR. LOCAL
POLITICAL DEBATE ON EXPO HAS NOW SHIFTED TO AFTERUSE OF THE
GROUNDS AND PREVENTION OF A POST-EXPO SLUMP. WITH AN ABSENCE
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OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING OUR SERVICEMEN, THE LEFTISTS HERE HAVE PAID

REMARKABLY LITTLE ATTENTION TO BASE ISSUES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. NOW, HOWEVER, WITH THE PROSPECTIVE SECDEF VISIT TO JAPAN, THE LEFTISTS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR FAVORITE THEME OF U.S. "REINFORCEMENT" OF THE OKINAWAN BASES AND THE DANGERS OF AMERICAN COMBAT ACTION DRAWING THE ISLAND INTO WAR. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EXPO: OKINAWA'S BIG SHOW - THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION - IS GOING WELL. DESPITE A SLOW START, ATTENDANCE IN THE FIRST MONTH HAS TOTALED SOME 750,000, MOST ALL MAIN ISLAND JAPANESE COMING DOWN IN GROUP TOURS. THE CAGY OKINAWANS, KNOWING HOW HOT THEIR OWN SUMMER IS, ARE BY ALL REPORTS WAITING UNTIL FALL TO TAKE THEIR FAMILIES TO EXPO, SO THE SPONSORS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REACHING THE TARGET ATTENDANCE. THE BOTTLENECK NOW SEEMS TO BE THE AIRLINES, WHICH ARE SOLIDLY BOOKED A MONTH IN ADVANCE. AFTER THE INITIAL BURST OF BAD PUBLICITY ON HIGH PRICES, THE EXPO

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AUTHORITIES FORCED DOWN PRICES SOME, BUT PUBLICITY GENERALLY REMAINS A WEAKNESS, AND PARTICULARLY SO ABROAD.

2. AT THE EXPO THE MOST POPULAR EXHIBITS ARE THE THEME PIECE AQUAPOLIS, THE FINE AQUARIUM, AND THE OKINAWAN PAVILION. THE U.S. PAVILION IS ALSO A MAJOR ATTRACTION, DRAWING HALF OF ALL VISITORS. EVEN THE LEFTIST OKINAWA TIMES HAS PRAISED THE U.S. PAVILION FOR ITS TECHNICAL DISPLAYS. OCEANOGRAPHERS AND OTHER SPECIALIST VISITORS IN THEIR MEETINGS WITH COMMISSIONER GENERAL LANE HAVE ALSO STRONGLY PRAISED THE U.S. EXHIBIT AS THE MOST INTERESTING TO THEM AT THE EXPO.

3. IN LOCAL POLITICAL CIRCLES THE EXPO CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF DEBATE. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MAJOR KENROKYO LABOR UNION FEDERATION, FOR INSTANCE, IS IN HOT WATER WITH THE MORE LEFTIST OF HIS UNIONS FOR SAYING THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CROWN PRINCE'S SCHEDULED NOV VISIT. THE TWO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO STRESS NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE EXPO, SUCH AS THE FAILURE SO FAR OF STALL OWNERS OUTSIDE THE EXPO GROUNDS TO MAKE MUCH MONEY. BUT GENERALLY IT IS ACCEPTED THAT THE EXPO IS GOOD FOR OKINAWA. MANY MERCHANTS ARE PROFITING MIGHTILY, AND THE PREFECTURAL GOVT HAS JUST RELEASED FIGURES THAT EMPLOYMENT

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DIRECTLY TRACEABLE TO EXPO AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 8,000 OKINAWANS. EVERYONE APPRECIATES THE FINE NEW HIGHWAYS. THE DEBATE THUS HAS SHIFTED OVER TO HOW TO USE THE EXPO GROUNDS AFTERWARDS AND HOW TO PREVENT A HEAVY SLUMP IN THE ECONOMY. SO FAR THERE ARE NO CLEAR ANSWERS, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS LOCAL IDEAS FOR AN "ENCORE FAIR" USING MOST OF THE EXPO FACILITIES HAVE FOUNDERED OVER COST. THE GOJ WILL

PROBABLY BEAR THE LESSER PRICE OF TRANSFORMING THE EXPO SITE INTO A "MEMORIAL PARK" WITH SOME BUILDINGS RETAINED FOR VARIOUS UNKNOWN USES. THE TOPIC WILL REMAIN A FAVORITE ONE FOR POLITICAL DEBATE HERE.

4. THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE: FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS THE LOCAL LEFTIST PRESS AND POLITICIANS HAVE DISPLAYED UNUSUALLY LITTLE INTEREST IN OUR MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. IN LARGE PART THIS HAS BEEN BECAUSE NO NEWSWORTHY INCIDENTS OR CRIMES INVOLVING OUR SERVICEMEN HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE FLORES CASE. ALSO LEFTIST ATTENTION HAS BEEN ABSORBED BY THE CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT AND OTHER LOCAL ISSUES.

5. IN THIS LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, THE LEFTISTS HAVE TAKEN A RENEWED INTEREST IN ATTACKING OUR BASE PRESENCE ON OKINAWA. THIS APPEARS MAINLY A SIDE EFFECT OF THE RECENT MIKI VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND

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THE SCHEDULED SCHLESINGER VISIT TO TOKYO. A SERIES OF PRESS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS ALL ARGUE THAT, AS PART OF NEW FOCUS ON THE DEFENSE OF SOUTH KOREA, BOTH THE USG AND GOJ ARE EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. BASES ON OKINAWA AND ARE "REINFORCING" THE BASES. THE LATTER IS OF COURSE A PERENNIAL THEME OF THE LEFTISTS HERE, BUT THEY POINT NOW TO THE MOVE LOCALLY OF THE MARINES INTO ARMY AREAS, THE DESIGNATION OF 1ST MARINE AIR WING CG AS CONCURRENT CG 3RD MAF, THE ASSUMPTION BY THE MARINES OF THE AREA COORDINATOR FUNCTION, NEW CONSTRUCTION ON KADENA AIR BASE, ETC. EDITORIALS CLAIM THAT THE SECDEF IS PERSONALLY ANGRY AT THE OKINAWAN OPPOSITION TO MARINE ARTILLERY FIRING, AND THAT THE USG INTENDS TO PRESS THE GOJ TO REMOVE LOCAL OKINAWAN IMPEDIMENTS TO OUR USE OF THE BASES
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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OES-03 IO-10 CU-02 OFA-01 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 NSF-01

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R 200833Z AUG 75
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1819
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB
OAC CAMP BUTLER
USAGO MACHINATO
313TH AD KADENA
MARCORB CAMP FOSTER
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
OAF0 CAMP BUTLER
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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HERE, AND, MOREOVER, TO OBTAIN FROM THE GOJ PRIOR ACCORDS ON
COMBAT MOBILIZATION FROM OKINAWAN BASES. THE EDITORIALS CLAIM THIS
WILL EFFECTIVELY DESTROY THE RESTRAINT IMPOSED NOW BY THE REQUIRE-
MENT TO CONSULT WITH THE GOJ ON OPERATIONS FROM OUR BASES, AND THUS

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POSSIBLY EMBROIL OKINAWA WILLY-NILLY IN WAR. VARIOUS LEFTIST
ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO REPORTED NOW TO BE GEARING UP TO PROTEST THE
18TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING BACKUP ROLE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ROK.
IN THE PRESENT SEARCH FOR COMPLAINTS AGAINST US, ARMY POLLUTION
OF WATER OFF THE MACHINATO SERVICE AREA, AND USAF NOISE POLLUTION
FROM KADENA ARE ALSO AGAIN BEING STRESSED.
6. THE PROSPECTS THUS ARE THAT THROUGH AND BEYOND THE SECDEF'S
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VISIT TO JAPAN THE OKINAWAN LEFTISTS WILL ONCE AGAIN FOCUS ON BASE
ISSUES, WITH THE MAJOR THEME U.S. "REINFORCEMENT" OF THE BASES.
CLOSE LEFTIST SCRUTINY OF ANY CHANGES WE MAKE IN OUR DEPLOYMENTS TO
OKINAWA MUST BE ANTICIPATED.

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